

COUNTRY Poland and Polish-occupied Germany REPORT NO.

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

TOPIC 1. Soviet and Polish Troops in the Lodz-Lowicz Area.

25X1A

2. Withdrawal of Soviet Troops from Gross Rona in the summer of 1950.

EVALUATION See below

PLACE OBTAINED

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DATE OF CONTENT prior to March 1951

DATE OBTAINED

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DATE PREPARED

31 August 1951

REFERENCES

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PAGES 2 ENCLOSURES (NO. & TYPE)

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SOURCE

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Soviet and Polish Troops in the Lodz-Lowicz Area.

1. According to Polish residents of Zgierz (Q 52/O 9h), Soviet troops, allegedly a complete unit commanded by a field-grade officer, arrived at the city by rail shortly before Whitsunday 1950. Individual Soviet motor vehicles and Soviet soldiers were frequently observed by source in Zgierz. These troops were still at the post on 24 November 1950. It was reported that the units were billeted in a factory closed down after 1939 and located near a large pond in an interior sector of the city. According to local residents, the Soviet troops were restricted to quarters. No heavy weapons were observed.
2. Prior to November 1950, no Soviet troops were located in Glowno (Q 52/P 16) and Strykow. A signal detail of 10 Polish soldiers, wearing khaki-brown uniforms was located in Strykow prior to November 1950. The soldiers established a connection between a telephone line along the Lodz (Q 52/O 93)-Lowicz highway and another line along the Glowno-Zgierz railroad line. (1)
3. According to a Polish friend, Soviet troops moved into a bivouac site in the Legiewniki Forest, located on the northeastern perimeter of Lodz, in October 1950. The troops, who allegedly arrived by train, were said to have guns and vehicles. Only a fairly limited number of Soviet troops were observed by source in the streets of Lodz prior to his resettlement. A Soviet officer, who served in the Polish Air Force, was residing at 54 ul. Armii Czerwonej. (2)

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4. Prior to February 1951, an agency staffed with Soviet officers and NCOs, including 1 colonel, 1 major, 1 captain and several sergeants, but no ELI, was located in three-story brick building at 11 and 13 ul. Karolewska, on the north side of the street. The officers wore blue breeches with a narrow red piping and riding boots. The entire staff had red-bordered epaulets and wore visor-type service caps. No sentry stood guard in front of the building.
5. According to local residents, Soviet troops were billeted in the Lagiewniki Forest in a former youth summer camp, on both sides of ul. Wycieczkowa. The entire forest was off limits to civilians. Weapons, including guns and tanks, were unloaded at the Lodz-Choiny railroad station on late 1950, as source learned from Polish civilians. These weapons were allegedly taken to the depot on ul. Pryncypalna. (3)

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6. Prior to early May 1951, Soviet troops were observed, by [] in the barracks installation exposed to observation from the Lowicz main railroad station.

Withdrawal of Soviet Troops from Gross Born.

7. [] a Soviet division was located in Gross Born (P 54/R 88) prior to early 1948. The division was commanded by a general, who frequently came to Leba prior to that time. About three months after Whitsunday 1948, source learned from acquaintances employed with fishing details of the same division in Rugenwalde (P 55/M 68) and Kolberg (O 55/M 14) that the details had been disbanded and that the division had left Gross Born. [] as early as the beginning of 1948. (4)

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Comments.

- (1) No previous reports stated that Soviet troops were located in Zgierz, Glowno and Strykow. A previous report stated that Soviet troops, who may belong only to a signal unit maintaining the Berlin-Moscow telephone line, are located in Lowicz. []. However, no confirmation has been received. 25X1A
- (2) No previous report stated that Soviet troops were located in the wooded area north of Lodz. One previous report stated that no Soviet units were observed in the entire area of the city prior to December 1950. [] Several resettlers who mentioned only Polish units in Lodz confirmed, in the reverse sense, the observations made in December 1950 and contained in the present report. []. A Polish ordnance depot is located on ul. Pryncypalna. It is believed that the weapons unloaded there were to be supplied to Polish units. 25X1A
- (3) All reports on the arrival of Soviet troops at Zgierz, Lowicz and the Lagiewniki Forest, northeast of Lodz, furnished by the resettlers are based on hearsay only and should be, for the present, considered rumors only. On the other hand, the resettlers observed single Soviet motor vehicles and soldiers only in Zgierz and Lodz, which conforms to the picture on this area as obtained previously. Frequent reports of the last two years on the presence of large Soviet units in the Warsaw-Kutno-Lodz area have never been confirmed by reliable sources. Hence, it is believed that only Soviet signal communications detachments maintaining telephone lines are located along the Posen-Konin-Kutno-Lowicz-Warsaw line and possibly along the highway leading southwest from Warsaw via Lodz, and only Soviet supply and signal details, similar to those in Warsaw, are stationed in Lodz. 25X1A
- (4) Previous reports stated that Soviet troops were withdrawn from Pomerania in 1948. A report of the summer of 1950, by a resettler, stated that the Gross Born training grounds was used by Soviet units practicing in summer, but failed to specify whether the training grounds was occupied throughout the year. []

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